

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

AND/OR COMMON

First Church of Christ, Scientist, University City

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

6900 Delmar Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

University City

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
#1 - Hon. William Clay

STATE

Missouri

CODE
29COUNTY
St. LouisCODE
189**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

• ☒ BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___EDUCATIONAL

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ENTERTAINMENT

☒ RELIGIOUS

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___MILITARY

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

STREET & NUMBER

6900 Delmar Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

University City

VICINITY OF

STATE
Missouri 63130**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis County Government Center

STREET & NUMBER

7900 Forsyth Blvd.

CITY, TOWN

Clayton

STATE
Missouri 63105**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

1. Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture, by John Albury Bryan

DATE

1928

___FEDERAL ☒ STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

published: St. Louis Architectural Club

CITY, TOWN

St. Louis

STATE Missouri

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, at 6900 Delmar Boulevard, is located at the southwest corner of Delmar and Trinity Avenue. The limestone ashlar building has a saucer dome and, while not exactly square in elevation, suggests that the curve of the dome could be the visible portion of a sphere contained within the building. The carefully coordinated five-bay main elevations of the building are identical on east, west and south sides, while the north elevation is enriched by a colonnade in antis. The corners of these elevations are angled to create four minor wall surfaces in addition to the four main ones, thus giving the building the shape of a non-equilateral octagon.

The ground floor is rusticated. On the north, it centers on three double doors under large half-round fanlights, flanked by marble urns on carved pedestals. To the east, the ground falls away to meet a narrow semicircular drive, putting the central door on this side of the building about a half story lower than the matching front doors. The keystone above this door supports a large console in the shape of a volute. On the west side, three pairs of french doors at the level of the east door open onto a sunken area.

At the piano nobile level, the side and rear elevations all have six very plain (Tuscan:) pilasters framing five windows. Over each window is a dishlike roundel of acanthus leaves surrounding a rosette. Above the pilasters is a frieze of square coffers. The north front has four composite columns set in a porch or umbrage above the main doors. Through a daring but logical shift, the frieze which has run above the pilasters on the other elevations finds itself below the level of the architrave here and running across the wall behind the columns. The beautifully carved capitals incorporate an eagle on the abacus in place of the more usual rosette. Bronze crosses decorate the blank end bays of this elevation. The date AD 1924 is inscribed on the cornerstone at the northeast corner. An egg-and-dart molding lies just under the modillioned cornice, above which rises a low parapet.

Inside, the half-story adjustment apparent on the exterior is followed through in the narthex, which is a half story above the ground floor social and utility rooms. Curved flights of stairs ascend from the ends of the narthex to the sanctuary, which fills the whole volume of the building. It has a sloped floor and long curving pews. The underside of the dome is decorated with five concentric rings of coffers, each with a rosette. The iconostasis is also neoclassical, based on a framework of Corinthian columns. Murals dated 1962 in the narthex and sanctuary depict Eastern saints in traditional Byzantine garb. Many of these include Greek inscriptions, including the four evangelists in the pendentives of the dome. A fire in storage rooms on the ground floor in January, 1980, caused relatively minor damage but distributed much soot throughout the interior.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1924-25

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

T. P. Barnett Co.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church was built in 1924 by T. P. Barnett Co. for the First Church of Christ, Scientist, University City. It is a fine example of the work of its architect Tom Barnett, and it plays a crucial role in the overall civic composition of the City Hall Plaza of University City. With its companion building, the former Anchor Masonic Temple at 6901 Delmar, it should have been included in the University City Plaza historic district, which was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on March 7, 1975. Now that the Anchor Temple has been included in the University Heights Subdivision Number One district, which was recently nominated to the National Register, this building is the only part of the group not to be so protected. Together, these buildings form one of the most outstanding City Beautiful civic complexes in the country in a city of this size.

Thomas Barnett (1870-1929) was the younger son of George I. Barnett (1815-1898), the English immigrant who had led the architectural profession in St. Louis from the time of his arrival here in the 1850's and was responsible for many notable buildings, including the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City. Tom Barnett worked in the family firm of Barnett, Haynes and Barnett from 1886 to 1911, and was credited with a large role in the design of the major commissions, which were crowned by the Catholic Cathedral of 1907-1914. After forming his own firm, he continued to produce designs which have become local landmarks, including the Arcade Building at Eighth and Olive, the gothic mausoleum of Adolphus Busch in Bellefontaine Cemetery, and the Italian Renaissance house of Edward Faust at 1 Portland Place, often thought of as the most palatial in the city.¹

In University City, Tom Barnett found himself in the position of revising the design concepts put forward two decades before by Edward Gardner Lewis, the founder of University City. Lewis, publisher and real estate promoter, a businessman² whose methods were often controversial and sometimes of dubious legality, had by stages from 1902 to 1906 developed a plan for a civic center that would include his publishing offices, municipal buildings, and a university for women. The surviving model for this district³ shows the Beaux-Arts buildings that are now included in the plaza historic district as well as others in more eclectic modes. The site of Assumption Church is occupied in the model by a copy of the Parthenon, while across the street rises a miniature Taj Mahal. Lewis went bankrupt in 1912, and he left St. Louis. A designer of Barnett's talent and sophistication would

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bryan, John Albury. Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture.
St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928, p. 236.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .75 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME "Clayton, Mo."

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 733960 4281840

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 7 and 8, Block 2, University Heights Subdivision No. 2.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE
Missouri

CODE
29

COUNTY
St. Louis

CODE
189

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

I. Esley Hamilton

ORGANIZATION

DATE
January, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

1169 Ursula Avenue

TELEPHONE
(314) 727-0428

CITY OR TOWN

University City

STATE
Missouri 63130

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE x

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Director, Department of Natural Resources and
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

For NPS Data only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 6

Page 1

2. Missouri State Historical Survey

1977

Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

have found the Lewis model naive, but Barnett was also able to see the soundness of its underlying concept: a group of buildings of strongly geometric shapes, each different but united by materials, scale and formality. That is exactly what he provided, first in this building and the following year in the step-pyramid shape of the Anchor Masonic Temple across the street.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, University City, which commissioned the building, had been organized February 21, 1921, by members of the First and Fourth Churches in St. Louis. It had met in a commercial building at 6640 Delmar. The cornerstone of the permanent building was dedicated July 16, 1924, and the first services were held in the completed structure or "edifice" as it is called by Christian Scientists, on May 3, 1925. It cost \$212,000.

The building was sold on August 1, 1958, when the Christian Scientists moved to the Clayton Masonic Temple.⁵ The new owner, Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, had been founded in 1940 and had first been located at Academy and Vernon Streets in St. Louis.⁶ Now, after nearly a quarter of a century in University City, the church is planning to move farther west, which raises the question of the continued maintenance of the present building.

Footnotes

1. A brief biographical sketch of Tom Barnett is found in Carolyn Hewes Toft and Osmund Overby, The Saint Louis Old Post Office (St. Louis: Landmarks Association, 1979), p. 37.
2. The best general source on Lewis' career in University City is Susan Waugh McDonald, "Edward Gardner Lewis: Entrepreneur, Publisher, American of the Gilded Age," The Bulletin. Missouri Historical Society, Vol. XXXV, No. 3.
3. This model is now on display on the main floor of City Hall.
4. Information from a historical sketch in the files of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Creve Coeur.
5. The group was rechartered as the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Creve Coeur, on completion of the present building at 10939 Ladue Road in 1963.
6. Information courtest of the church office.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 11

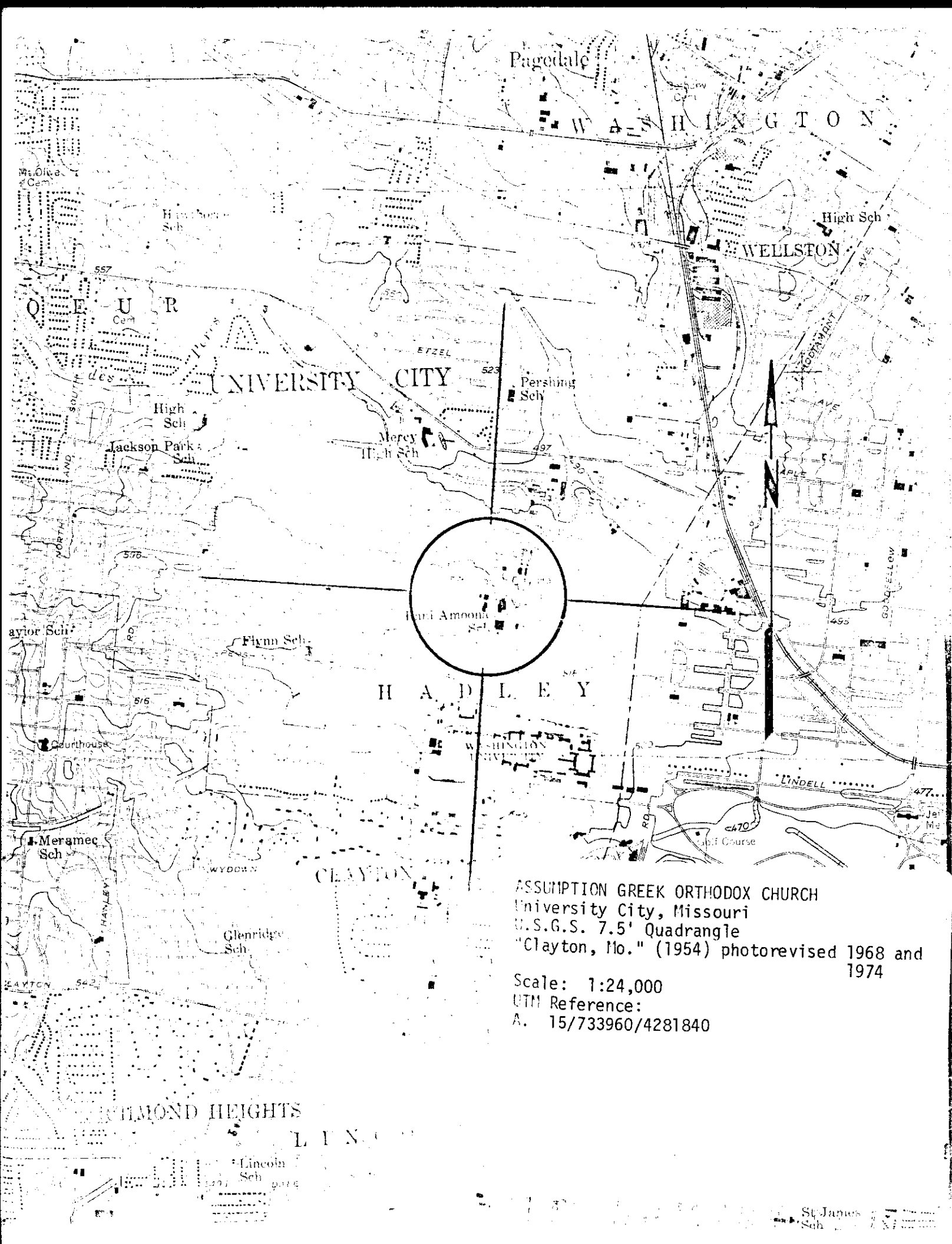
Page 1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Office of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

March 7, 1980

314/751/4096

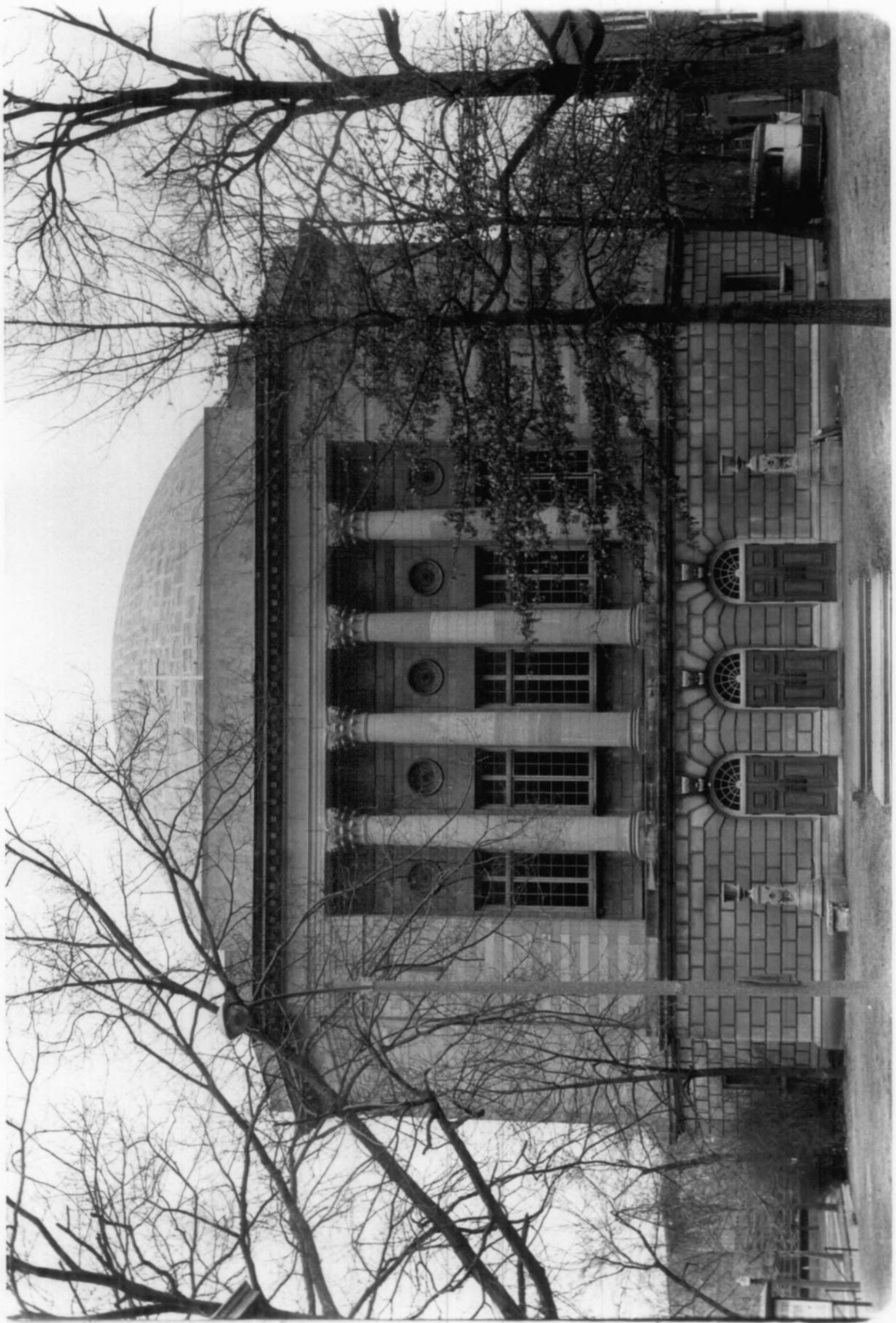
Missouri 65101



ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
University City, Missouri
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
"Clayton, Mo." (1954) photorevised 1968 and 1974

Scale: 1:24,000
UTM Reference:
A. 15/733960/4281840

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
6900 Delmar Blvd., University City, Mo.
Photo Credited to Esley Hamilton, 1980
Negative Filed at University City Public
Library, 6701 Delmar, University City
View of church from north
Photo Number One of Two



Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
6900 Delmar Blvd., University City, Mo.
Photo Credited to Ealey Hamilton, 1980
Negative Filed at University City Public
Library, 6701 Delmar Blvd., University
City, Missouri 63130
View of church from northeast, showing
south pylon of City Hall Plaza
National Register District
Photo Number Two of Two

